

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1278  
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the 2004 Unaka High  
School Lady Rangers Basketball Team.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to commend and recognize those gifted student-athletes and teams who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Rangers basketball team at Unaka High School is comprised of such estimable Tennesseans who have recently completed the most successful season in team history by advancing to the 2004 TSSAA Class A State Championship Tournament in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, they maximized their considerable talents and completed a truly remarkable season by winning the District 1-A and Region 1-A Championships and ultimately posting at 25-7 record; and

WHEREAS, in claiming the Region Championship the Lady Rangers overwhelmed the team from J. Frank White 79 to 15, vanquished Jellico 77 to 39 and soundly defeated Hancock County 55 to 44; and

WHEREAS, the impressive Region Championship granted the Lady Rangers the opportunity to play in front of their family and fans in Snively Gymnasium to earn their first trip to the "Tennessee Big Dance," the TSSAA Class A State Tournament at Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Rangers rose to the challenge and ably defended their home court by defeating an aggressive and skillful Wartburg Central team by the score of 54 to 51 to realize the dream they had worked so hard for during the long season and the hours and hours of training, practices, and games; and

WHEREAS, tasting Tennessee March Madness for the first time on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, the opponent for the women from Unaka High School would be perennial powerhouse Clarkrange led by Class A Miss Basketball Finalist Michelle Snow; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Rangers fought bravely, playing well early, but a three-point barrage by the Lady Buffaloes and foul trouble found the team trailing at the half by 12 points; despite an earnest effort in the second half the Clarkrange lead was too much to overcome and the most successful season in Unaka High School girls' basketball history came to an end; and

WHEREAS, Clarkrange would go on to win the Class A State Championship after defeating Unaka, but more importantly the Lady Rangers of Unaka High School established their team, and all future Lady Ranger teams, as a force to be reckoned with in the realm of girls' high school basketball in Tennessee and should rightfully take pride in this accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary young women who comprised the 2004 Lady Rangers were Renee Ensor, Jessica Osborne, Julie Roberson, Danielle Ensor, Coty Townsend, Megan Johnson, Lacey Gouge, Tiffanie Babb, Sallee Taylor, Logan Wagenseller, Kelly Allen, Erica Wilson and Tessa Lunsford; and

WHEREAS, the team was ably guided by highly regarded Head Coach Kenneth Chambers, who was inspired and truly enjoyed the attendance of his parents during the Wartburg game, with his father, Frank, sitting by the Lady Ranger bench; and

WHEREAS, the coaches and players received invaluable support from the administration, faculty, and student body of Unaka High School; and

WHEREAS, these young women epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved at the highest level of competition, while evincing the most circumspect character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young student-athletes not only made possible an outstanding basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2004 Unaka High School Lady Rangers for their success on the court and for serving as fine examples of the high quality of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Unaka High School in celebrating the Lady Rangers amazing 2004 season and honor and commend the talented young women who achieved this success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish them much continued success and happiness in their future endeavors and look forward to the Lady Rangers in the near future bringing a State Championship trophy back to Snavelly Gymnasium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.